Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle seat for a passenger car, comprising:

a backrest;

a head restraint arranged on an upper end of the backrest, the head restraint including a rear part mounted to the backrest and a front part configured to contact a seat occupant and pivotable with respect to the rear part, the front part being pivotally connected to the rear part along a horizontal rotational axis;

a spreading-lever device connected at a first end to the front part and connected at a second end to the rear part for pivoting the front part with respect to the rear part; and

at least one driving device that actuates the spreading-lever device in response to at least one control signal.

2. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 1 wherein the at least one control signal is indicative of a vehicle impact.

3. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 1 wherein the at least one control signal is indicative of a desired inclination of the head restraint.

4. (currently amended) The vehicle seat according to claim 1 wherein the at least one control signal comprises a first control signal indicating a vehicle impact, the first control signal being operative to pivot the front part forward about a rotational axis by a large angular amount, and a second control signal indicating a desired inclination of the head restraint, the second control signal being operative to pivot the front part to a position selected by ~~an~~ the seat occupant.

5. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 1 further comprising a cable that connects the at least one driving device to the spreading-lever device.

6. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 1, wherein the at least one driving device comprises an electric motor.

7. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 6, wherein the electric motor pivots the front part forward in the event of a vehicle impact.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 4 wherein the first control signal is provided by a mechanical actuator that detects an acceleration imparted during a vehicle impact to the vehicle occupant and converts the acceleration into a driving force for pivoting the front portion.

10. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 5 further comprising a spring element that biases the front part of the spreading-lever device to spread away from the rear part.

11. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 1 wherein the spreading-lever device is configured to be moved to a locked position during a vehicle impact.

12. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 5 wherein the cable is connected to a first driving element for adjusting inclination of the front part, and a second driving element for pivoting the head restraint forward during a vehicle impact.

13-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 9 wherein the mechanical actuator has a compression plate arranged in the backrest that can be moved with respect to an essentially rigid frame of the backrest.

24. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according claim 9 wherein the backrest has a backrest frame, and the mechanical actuator has a plurality of primary tension elements fastened by at least one end to the backrest frame and a secondary tension element connected by at least one end to the backrest frame and at least one point to the front part, wherein the primary tension elements engage the secondary tension element in an alternating manner from opposite sides in such a manner that when the primary tension elements are acted upon by a displacement of the vehicle occupant, the secondary tension element is deformed in an essentially zigzag manner.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 24 wherein the secondary tension element is a flexible wire.

27. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 24 wherein the primary tension elements loop around the secondary tension element and are fastened at each end to the backrest frame.

28. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 24, wherein the primary tension elements are fastened in an alternating manner to opposite sides of the backrest frame, and the secondary tension element is fastened to a transverse support of the backrest frame.

29. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 24 wherein the primary tension elements and the secondary tension element are arranged behind a backrest upholstery of the vehicle seat.

30. (previously presented) The vehicle seat according to claim 24 wherein the primary tension elements and the secondary tension element are disposed in a load distributor plate.

31-33. (cancelled)

34. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 1 wherein the spreading-lever device comprises a first lever and a second lever pivotably connected at a linkage point.

35. (original) The vehicle seat of claim 5 wherein the cable is connected to the spreading-lever device at the linkage point.

36. (currently amended) A seat for a vehicle, comprising:

a backrest;

a head restraint arranged on an upper end of the backrest, the head restraint including a rear part mounted to the backrest and a front part configured to contact a seat occupant and pivotable with respect to the rear part, the front part being pivotally connected to the rear part along a horizontal rotational axis;

a spreading-lever device connected at a first end to the front part and connected at a second end to the rear part for pivoting the front part with respect to the rear part;

wherein upon actuation of the spreading-lever device, the spreading-lever device is configured to pivot the front part with respect to the rear part.